

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application, the allowance of claims 48-52, and the indication that claim 41 defines allowable subject matter. The Office Action, however, rejected all remaining claims. In response to the Office Action, Applicant submits the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Specifically, in reliance on the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has canceled all rejected claims, in order to place this application in immediate condition for allowance.

The undersigned notes, however, that there are certain inconsistencies in the Office Action. Several weeks ago, the undersigned left voice messages for the Examiner in order to clarify these inconsistencies. Unfortunately, the Examiner never returned the calls.

As one example, on page 11 (and on the summary page), the Office Action expressly allowed claims 48-52. However, on page 8, the Office Action appears to reject claim 48 (stating "Claims 48 are rejected..."). However, immediately following that stated rejection (just two lines below), the Office Action references claim 42. Further, the first paragraph on page 9 (which is continued from page 8) is cut off and incomplete (i.e., it simply ends mid-sentence). This, therefore, appears to be an erroneous entry of the Office Action. Again, the undersigned left a message for the Examiner seeking clarification, but never received a return phone call.

As another example, on page 11, the Office Action states "Claim 41 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable...." However,

claim 41 was previously amended to be placed in independent form. Accordingly, the understands that claim 41 is in proper condition for allowance.

Again, in reliance on the allowance of all pending claims, the Applicant has canceled all remaining claims. If the Applicant's understanding is incorrect, or if the Examiner changes his mind regarding the allowability of the presently pending claims, then the Applicant requests that the cancellation of the remaining claims NOT be entered, and that a new, non-Final Office Action be mailed, which considers all claims (based on their prior state).

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

A credit card authorization has been provided to cover the charges of the accompanying extension of time. No addition fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any additional fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

/Daniel R. McClure/

Daniel R. McClure, Reg. No. 38,962

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.

Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500